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FACTS ABOUT DALWORTHINGTON GARDENS

Arlington, Texas

Official Name: Dalworthington Gardens.

Location: In Tarrant County, Texas, 18 miles from Dallas, 14 miles from Fort Worth and 3 miles from Arlington.

Number of Units: 78.

History of Project: Initiated by the Division of Subsistence Homesteads of the Department of the Interior in December, 1933, Dalworthington Gardens was transferred to the Resettlement Administration by Executive Order May 15, 1935. The project was completed January 4, 1936. On September 1, 1937, it was placed under the jurisdiction of the Farm Security Administration.

Purpose of Project: Dalworthington Gardens is a subsistence homesteads community for low-income families employed on a full or part-time basis in the various trades and industries in Dallas, Fort Worth and the vicinity. It was originally sponsored by Dallas-Fort Worth Veterans Relief Organization to provide better housing and living conditions and to give low-income workers an opportunity to increase their incomes by raising a major portion of their food supply in supplementary garden plots.

Project Description: A 594 acre rolling prairie tract 622 feet above sea level was selected as the project site. The land is well drained and the soil is sandy loam of sufficient depth and fertility to be suitable for the growing of all garden crops common to the area. Each of the 78 individual tracts into which the site has been divided contains a house, cow barn, chicken house and combination garage and storeroom. Two old houses, which have been remodeled, were on the tract when purchased. A community water system, consisting of a 700 foot artesian well, a "standby well", storage tanks, mains and individual meters, supplies water. Sewage disposal is provided by individual septic tanks. While gas is not available, electricity is furnished by a private utility. Telephone service is available to the homesteaders.

House Description:

The houses built at Dalworthington Gardens are one-story frame structures, without basements, and are built on concrete piers. Each house has a kitchen, living room-dining room combination, a front porch, either 2 or 3 bedrooms, and a fully equipped bathroom. Of the 78 newly constructed houses, 37 are of 4 rooms and 41 of 5 rooms.

The Homesteaders:

With but one exception, all the homesteaders now in residence at Dalworthington Gardens are employed in Dallas or Fort Worth. The average income of the families at the time of their selection was \$1,234 per year. Because the success of the project depends primarily on regular employment of the homesteaders, future prospects of employment are important. The 1929 census of manufacture reports for Dallas and the vicinity 819 manufacturing establishments and a value of manufacture of \$99,553,797. It is felt that employment possibilities in this area should be good for some years to come. A survey made in 1935 indicated that all the homesteaders had agricultural experience and were raising food stuffs in the subsistence garden plots. While only one family head was cultivating a commercial garden, practically every homesteader has been raising all the table vegetables necessary for the family's consumption and large supplies have been canned each year for future use. During the first year of homesteading, 25 families had poultry flocks of from 11 to 70 birds; 23 families had 24 cows and 17 homesteaders had planted fruit trees. The survey further showed that 4 occupants were able to sell small amounts of milk, 5 a few eggs and one or two others had a surplus of feed crops.

Results of Project:

With 75 of the 78 places now occupied, 100 per cent occupancy is anticipated by September 1st. Homesteaders are utilizing their opportunities by supplementing their incomes through subsistence gardens, chickens and livestock.

The community is well organized and is operating on a self-supporting basis.

